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## Russian Hints Soviet Would Favor A Rejection by Turkey of U-2 Plan

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WASHINGTON, May 28 — A high-ranking Soviet official said today that Moscow would welcome a decision by Turkey to turn down an American request to fly reconnaissance planes over Turkish territory as part of an effort to monitor Soviet compliance with the new arms-limitation treaty.

White House aides said the statement was the first indication of the Soviet Union's official position on an American plan for monitoring the treaty with U-2 reconnaissance planes.

The statement was made on a visit to Izmir, Turkey, by Aleksei P. Shitikov, the Speaker of the Soviet of the Union, one of the two houses of the Supreme Soviet, the nominal legislature. Mr. Shitikov told reporters that the Soviet Union would "receive positively" any Turkish decision not to allow the U-2 flights.

The Soviet attitude toward the proposed flights is crucial because the Turkish Foreign Ministry said earlier this month that it would allow the flights only if the Soviet Union did not object.

### U.S. Interpretations Differ

Although the Soviet official did not call on Turkey to reject the U-2 request, some officials interpreted his statement as conveying that message. Other aides cautioned against viewing his comments as the definitive Soviet position, saying that further talks with Moscow would be necessary before the issue was resolved.

After the loss of two electronic listening posts in Iran earlier this year, the Administration told Congress last month that it was considering the use of U-2 planes to fly in Turkish airspace close to the Soviet border to monitor missile test firings from the Baikonur launching center at Leninsk in Central Asia.

The information obtained by the U-2 flights, augmented by other intelligence sources, was to be used to compensate for the loss of the Iranian stations. The information would be used to check on Soviet compliance with limits placed by the treaty on the modernization of Soviet land-based ballistic missiles.

In an effort to gain Turkish cooperation, President Carter sent Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit a three-page letter outlining how the surveillance missions over Turkey would aid the cause of Soviet-American arms control. In talks with Warren M. Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Ecevit is reported to have said that he would not permit the flights unless Moscow agreed.

Officials said Mr. Ecevit's position reflected his policy of seeking better relations with the Soviet Union and his concern over the reaction of leftist groups at home to his being seen to cooperate with Washington in intelligence matters. Some officials believe that Mr. Ecevit may also be using the U-2 as a bargaining chip in talks with the United States over American aid.

### Envoy Pressing Soviet on Issue

Over the last two weeks, Malcolm Toon, the American Ambassador in Moscow, is said to have sought Soviet acquiescence to the U-2 missions. According to officials, Mr. Toon has not asked Moscow to offer public support for the flights but merely to withhold criticism of Turkish cooperation with the American plan.

Mr. Toon is said to have pointed out that the treaty gave both sides the right to use "national technical means," such as satellites or listening posts, to verify compliance. In the past, the Soviet Union has not objected to the use of satellites or specially equipped ships to monitor Soviet missile tests.

Mr. Toon is also said to have pressed the argument that unless members of the Senate could be assured on the issue of verification, the arms treaty would stand a poor chance of being ratified.

Despite this, American officials have not been optimistic about muting Soviet criticism of using the U-2's to collect missile test data. In view of the spy flight of Francis Gary Powers, whose U-2 was downed over the Soviet Union in 1960, the plane is viewed by Moscow as posing a military threat, they said.